U. S. FOREST SERVICE

RESEARCH NOTE NC-57

NORTH CENTRAL FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION, FOREST SERVICE—U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Forest Land In Indiana Counties, 1967

ABSTRACT.—Commercial forest land has declined slightly from 4.1 million acres in 1950 to 3.9 million acres in 1967. The more heavily forested counties are in the southern half of the State where forest land has been increasing.

Since 1950 commercial forest land in Indiana has declined from 4.1 million to close to 3.9 million acres. The decline occurred in the lightly forested northern counties while the southern counties gained slightly in commercial forest land.

The proportion of land in forest increases from north to south, with a noticeable change midway in the State. Glaciers smoothed off the northern half of the State making it more suitable for agriculture. Here the forests occupy about 7 percent of the land area. The southern part of the State, with its rolling landscape, supports most of the commercial forests.

With more than three-fourths of the commercial forest land in the south it is not surprising that 70 percent of the primary wood-using plants (mainly sawmills) are located in the southern counties, or that the increase in the number of these plants has been greater than in the north. The more heavily forested counties — such as Brown, Crawford, Monroe, and Perry — are found here. These counties are more than half covered with commercial forests. Although forest land has increased slightly in the south, the net change throughout the State had been downward.

Forest Survey Unit	*Commercial Forest Land* (Thousand Acres)		*Change Since 1950* (Percent)
	1950	*1967*	
Lower Wabash	793.0	836.2	+ 5.4
Knobs	1,684.0	1,769.2	+ 5.1
Upland Flats	434.0	353.7	—18.5
Northern	1,171.0	936.7	—20.0
Total	4,082.0	3,895.8	— 4.6

Between 1950 and 1967, commercial forest land in the north dropped from 1,171,000 to 937,000 acres, a decline of 20 percent. This land use change was probably caused primarily by urbanization, farm consolidation, and highway construction.

Only 2 percent of the forest land in Indiana is considered noncommercial. More than half, 38,500 acres, is in state parks that are reserved from timber cutting. The remaining 30,000 acres have unproductive soils.

The forest area information in this report is part of the results of the Second Indiana Forest Survey made during the summer of 1966 and the winter of 1967. The survey was conducted by the North Central Forest Experiment Station in cooperation with the Forestry Division of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The sampling error of this survey is ± 2 percent for the 3.9 million acres of commercial forest land.

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1968

Table 1. *Area of land and forest land, by counties, Indiana, 1967*

Survey Unit & county	All land[1]	All forest	Forest Land[2]: Non-commercial[3]	Forest Land[2]: Commercial[4]	Commercial forest as a percent of land area
	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Percent
			NORTHERN UNIT		
Adams	220.8	14.3	0.3	14.0	6.3
Allen	429.3	35.6	.3	35.3	8.2
Bartholomew	257.3	35.5	.3	35.2	13.7
Benton	261.8	3.2	.2	3.0	1.1
Blackford	106.9	7.0	.1	6.9	6.4
Boone	273.3	11.5	.4	11.1	4.1
Carroll	239.4	16.2	.2	16.0	6.7
Cass	265.5	20.4	.2	20.2	7.6
Clinton	260.5	9.9	.4	9.5	3.6
Decatur	236.7	23.4	.4	23.0	9.7
DeKalb	234.0	22.0	.3	21.7	9.3
Delaware	254.6	11.6	.4	11.2	4.4
Elkhart	299.5	25.7	.3	25.4	8.5
Fountain	254.1	27.1	.6	26.5	10.4
Fulton	235.4	16.0	.2	15.8	6.7
Grant	269.4	14.3	.3	14.0	5.2
Hamilton	256.6	13.8	.2	13.6	5.3
Hancock	195.2	9.1	.2	8.9	4.6
Hendricks	266.9	15.6	.3	15.3	5.7
Henry	256.0	14.4	.2	14.2	5.5
Howard	187.5	6.8	.2	6.6	3.5
Huntington	249.6	20.5	.2	20.3	8.1
Jasper	359.7	25.1	.7	24.4	6.8
Jay	247.0	18.9	.3	18.6	7.5
Johnson	201.6	12.5	.3	12.2	6.0
Kosciusko	345.7	27.8	.3	27.5	8.0
LaGrange	243.8	19.3	.3	19.0	7.8
Lake	328.0	9.7	.2	9.5	2.9
LaPorte	388.6	28.3	.3	28.0	7.2
Madison	289.9	12.3	.6	11.7	4.0
Marion	256.1	13.7	.3	13.4	5.2
Marshall	283.8	25.4	.3	25.1	8.8
Miami	243.2	20.4	.2	20.2	8.3
Montgomery	324.5	23.8	2.0	21.8	6.7
Newton	264.3	18.6	.2	18.4	7.0
Noble	263.9	24.3	1.1	23.2	8.8
Porter	271.7	27.9	2.3	25.6	9.4
Pulaski	277.1	27.0	2.8	24.2	8.7
Randolph	292.5	14.7	.6	14.1	4.8
Rush	261.8	12.5	.2	12.3	4.7
St. Joseph	298.4	21.8	.2	21.6	7.2
Shelby	261.8	13.5	.5	13.0	5.0
Starke	198.7	24.7	.3	24.4	12.3
Steuben	198.0	23.6	1.0	22.6	11.4
Tippecanoe	319.7	19.2	.4	18.8	5.9
Tipton	167.0	6.4	.1	6.3	3.8
Wabash	269.3	21.3	.2	21.1	7.8
Warren	235.5	20.3	.2	20.1	8.5
Wayne	259.1	23.3	.2	23.1	8.9
Wells	235.5	17.3	.9	16.4	7.0
White	317.9	12.7	.3	12.4	3.9
Whitley	215.5	20.2	.2	20.0	9.3
Total	13,629.9	960.4	23.7	936.7	6.9

1/ 1960 Bureau of the Census.

2/ Land at least 10 percent stocked by forest trees of any size, or formerly having such tree cover; excludes land currently developed for nonforest use such as urban or thickly settled residential or resort areas, city parks, orchards, improved roads, or improved pasture land. The minimum area classified as forest land was 1 acre. Roadside, streamside, and shelterbelt strips of timber with crown width of at least 120 feet and all unimproved roads and trails, streams, and clearings in forest areas were classified as forest.

Survey Unit & county	All Land[1]	All forest	Forest Land[2]		Commercial forest as a percent of land area
			Non-commercial[3]	Commercial[4]	
	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Percent
LOWER WABASH UNIT					
Clay	233.0	53.3	0.3	53.0	22.7
Daviess	275.0	41.9	-	41.9	15.2
Gibson	318.9	48.9	-	48.9	15.3
Greene	351.4	99.8	.3	99.5	28.3
Knox	330.5	39.4	-	39.4	11.9
Martin	220.8	111.1	-	111.1	50.3
Parke	288.6	92.4	2.4	90.0	31.2
Pike	214.4	79.8	-	79.8	37.2
Posey	263.6	42.1	-	42.1	16.0
Putnam	313.6	72.2	.7	71.5	22.8
Sullivan	292.5	54.1	.3	53.8	18.4
Vanderburgh	154.3	20.0	-	20.0	13.0
Vermillion	168.3	35.0	-	35.0	20.8
Vigo	265.5	50.2	-	50.2	18.9
Total	3,690.4	840.2	4.0	836.2	22.7
KNOBS UNIT					
Brown	207.3	148.8	15.5	133.3	64.3
Clark	245.8	92.3	.2	92.1	37.5
Crawford	199.7	113.4	.6	112.8	56.5
DuBois	277.0	96.8	.1	96.7	34.9
Floyd	95.4	36.8	.2	36.6	38.4
Harrison	306.6	131.6	.7	130.9	42.7
Jackson	332.8	122.2	.3	121.9	36.6
Lawrence	293.8	127.6	2.1	125.5	42.7
Monroe	262.5	134.5	.7	133.8	51.0
Morgan	259.8	92.0	.1	91.9	35.4
Orange	259.2	119.2	.8	118.4	45.7
Owen	249.2	115.7	1.9	113.8	45.7
Perry	245.8	143.6	.8	142.8	58.1
Scott	123.5	45.2	.1	45.1	36.5
Spencer	253.4	69.6	1.8	67.8	26.8
Warrick	250.2	76.2	.7	75.5	30.2
Washington	330.2	130.6	.3	130.3	39.5
Total	4,192.2	1,796.1	26.9	1,769.2	42.2
UPLAND FLATS UNIT					
Dearborn	195.8	41.7	2.7	39.0	19.9
Fayette	137.6	16.3	.5	15.8	11.5
Franklin	252.2	58.2	1.6	56.6	22.4
Jefferson	234.2	62.3	1.6	60.7	25.9
Jennings	241.3	68.5	1.0	67.5	28.0
Ohio	55.7	13.5	.3	13.2	23.7
Ripley	282.9	54.6	4.8	49.8	17.6
Switzerland	141.4	39.3	.5	38.8	27.4
Union	107.5	13.2	.9	12.3	11.4
Total	1,648.6	367.6	13.9	353.7	21.4
State Total	23,161.1	3,964.3	68.5	3,895.8	16.8

3/ Unproductive forest land incapable of yielding crops of industrial wood because of adverse site conditions and productive public forest land withdrawn from commercial timber use through statute or administrative regulation.

4/ Forest land producing or capable of producing crops of industrial wood and not withdrawn from timber utilization.

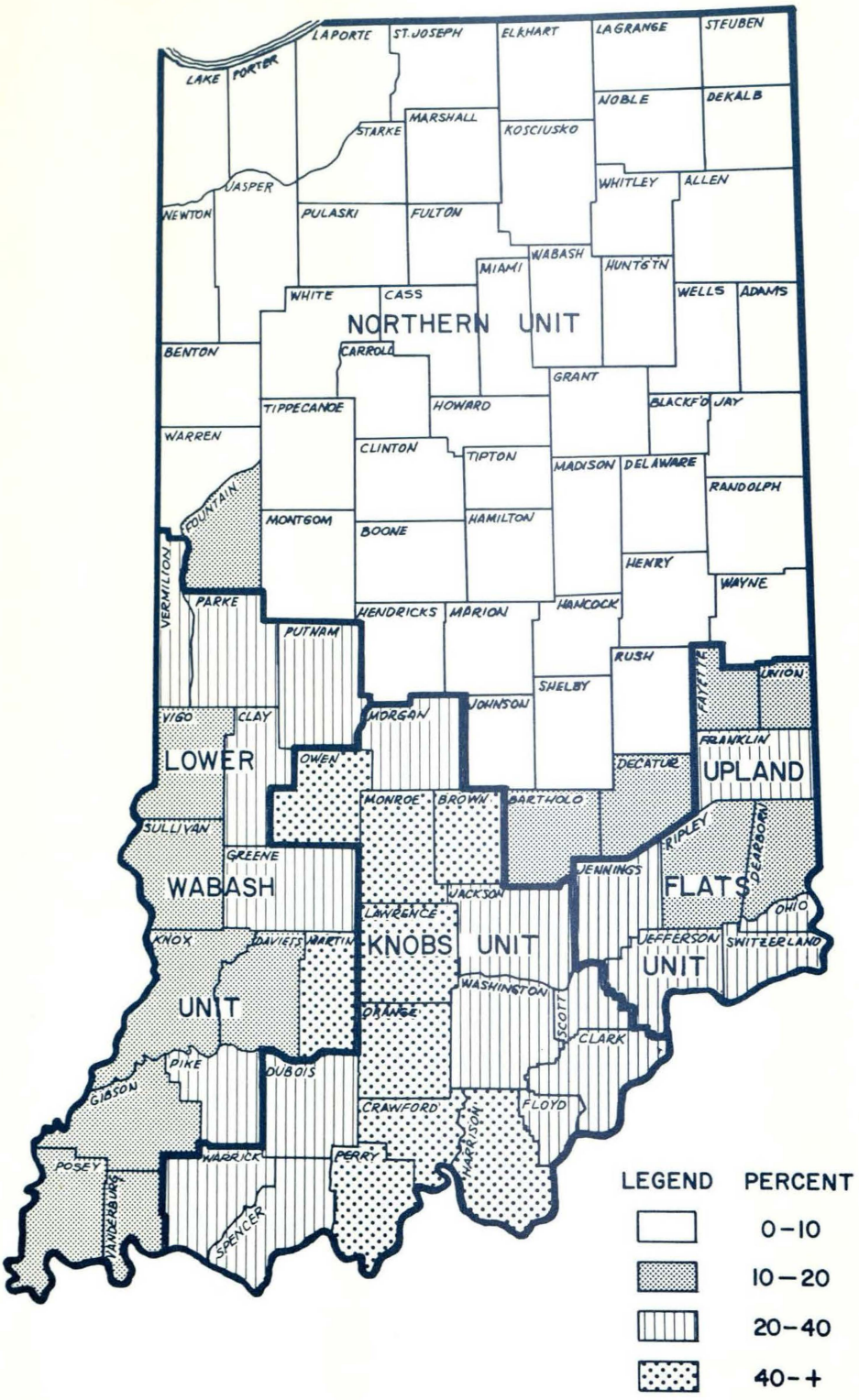

Figure 1. — Commercial forest as a percent of land area, by county, Indiana, 1967.